

APPENDIX

SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Fig. 10 is a block diagram to show an arrangement of an embodiment of a receiving terminal unit 31 incorporated in the program information broadcasting system of the present invention. As this receiving terminal unit 31, a multi-media storage display unit is used, for example. It has principally a function as a receiving terminal in the above program information broadcasting system and, when necessary, may be used as a transmitting terminal to transmit a viewer attribute information, a viewing result information or a reply coupon information 15 to the center. In Fig. [7]10, reference numeral 41 represents an antenna for receiving broadcasting, 42 represents a tuner for detecting a signal by tuning with the receiving electric wave, 43 represents a descrambler for decoding encrypted receiving signal, 44 represents a transport for selecting and picking up necessary information from the received data, 45 represents an MPEG video decoder for decoding video from the information picked up by the transport 44 and for generating compressed video data, 46 represents an MPEG audio decoder for decoding audio data from the information picked up by the transport 44 and for generating compressed audio data. And a reference numeral 23 represents a display unit for displaying or outputting video signals and audio signals respectively obtained by the MPEG video decoder 45 and the MPEG audio decoder 46.

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Amended) A program information broadcasting system,
comprising [the steps of]:

means for assembling [preparing] a master data compilation of program information for recognizing a broadcast[ing] program, wherein [with] program elements of said broadcasting program are [being] divided into a plurality of items and are [being turned] converted to data at a broadcasting center;

means for [preparing a program] assembling basic information with a minimum of [minimal] necessary items sufficient for preparation of a program guide, wherein said basic information is [being] extracted from said data constituting said master data compilation, said

program basic information including extracted items of all of programs included in said master data compilation so that the amount of data in said basic program information is considerably smaller than that of said master data;

means for transmitting said master data and said program basic information simultaneously with [the] broadcasting programs; and

means for receiving, reproducing and/or displaying said program basic information before completion of receipt of said master data at a receiving terminal unit.

2. (Amended) A program information broadcasting system according to claim 1, wherein, at said broadcasting center, said means for preparing said program basic information is arranged to prepare said program basic information [prepared] by extracting information with high[er] utilization frequency from said master data.

3. (Amended) A program information broadcasting system according to claim 1, wherein said means for preparing said program basic information is arranged to prepare said program basic information [prepared] by extracting data based on predetermined attributes from the master data of the program information.

5. (Amended) A program information broadcasting system according to claim 4, wherein said means for preparing said program basic information is arranged to prepare a plurality of types of program basic information, and wherein said plurality of types of information are [are prepared] as many as are related to said attributes.

7. (Twice amended) A program information broadcasting system according to claim 1, wherein said means for transmitting said master data and said program basic information is arranged to transmit said master data and said program basic information [are transmitted] at cycles that are different from each other.

8. (Amended) A program information broadcasting system according to claim 7, wherein said means for transmitting said master data and said program basic information is

arranged to transmit said master data [are transmitted] at a longer cycle than said program basic information.

9. (Twice amended) A program information broadcasting system according to claim 1, further comprising:

means for preparing [wherein, in transmitting the program information, a] program extended information [is prepared] by deleting the data used for preparation of the program basic information from the master data[.]; and

means for linking [and] the program basic information with [and] the program extended information[are linked to each other];

wherein said means for transmitting is arranged to transmit said program basic information and said program extended information simultaneously with the transmitting of programs.

10. (Amended) A program information broadcasting system according to claim 1, further comprising means for preparing [wherein a mail is broadcast at] mail, and the means for preparing said mail is arranged to broadcast mail from the broadcasting center in addition to transmission of the program information, and said mail is linked to said program information so that the receiving terminal unit can gain access to the linked data of the program information from the received mail.

11. (Amended) A program information broadcasting system according to claim 10, [wherein] further comprising means for preparing voting and questionnaire data related [data] to a call function to enable viewers to participate in voting[.] or questionnaire[, etc. are], and the voting and questionnaire data are incorporated in the mail to be transmitted.

12. (Amended) A program information broadcasting system according to claim 11, wherein[, in transmitting the mails, a summarized table of the mails is broadcast, and it is checked at the receiving terminal unit] the means for transmitting is arranged to broadcast a summarized table of mails, and further comprising means at the terminal unit for checking

whether the items listed in the summarized table of [the] mails have been already read or not, and means for displaying only the mails not yet read [are displayed].

13. (Amended) A program information broadcasting system according to claim 11, wherein[, in transmitting the mails, the mail is transmitted together with some receiving condition, and it is checked at the receiving terminal unit] the means for transmitting is arranged to transmit an e-mail together with some receiving condition, and means are provided at the terminal unit for checking whether the user of the terminal unit satisfies said receiving condition or not, and the e-mail is displayed only when the user satisfies the receiving condition.

14. (Amended) A broadcasting device, comprising:
program information data preparing means for dividing program elements, constituting a broadcasting program, into a plurality of items and turning them into data and for preparing a master data list of program information that is adapted to recognize the program;

information retrieval means for retrieving minimal necessary items for preparation of a program guide from the master data list;

program basic information preparing means for preparing program basic information using said minimal necessary items obtained by said information retrieval means, said program basic information including extracted items of all programs included in said master data so that the amount of data in said program basic information is substantially smaller than the amount of data in said master data;

transmission data generating means for converting said master data and said program basic information to transmittable data; and

transmitting means for transmitting said transmittable [transmission] data.

16. (Amended) A broadcasting device according to claim 15, wherein said transmission information data base means is arranged to send [sends] the integrated data of the program information data and the mail data to the information retrieval means.

17. (Twice amended) A broadcasting device according to claim 15, further comprising:

[wherein there is further provided] voting and questionnaire data preparing means for preparing voting and questionnaire data and for sending the voting and questionnaire data to the program information data preparing means;

voting data receiving means for receiving voting data including replies from subscribers to questionnaire(s); and

voting data processing means for processing the received voting data.

18. (Amended) A broadcasting device according to claim 17, wherein said voting and questionnaire data preparing means is arranged to send [sends] the prepared voting and questionnaire data to the mail data preparing means.

19. (Amended) A receiving terminal unit, comprising:
receiving means for receiving a master data list of a broadcast program information;
program basic information preparing means for extracting a minimal number of items necessary [items] for preparation of a program guide from [data, which constitute] the received master data, and for preparing a program basic information, said program basic information including extracted items of all programs included in said master data so that the amount of data in said program basic information is substantially smaller than that of said master data;

storage means for storing data of said program basic information;

data reproducing means for reproducing data of the received program information and the program basic information; and

control means for controlling various types of operations [described above],

whereby:

when an instruction to display [the] program information is inputted, said control means receives the master data of said program information, and prepares a summarized table of the programs by reading [the] program basic information from said storage means.

20. (Amended) A receiving terminal unit according to claim 19, wherein said program basic information is prepared by extracting information with a higher utilization frequency from said master data.